

CAPSULE SUMMARY
180 Crain Highway, SE (PG: 74B-28)
Prince George's County, Maryland

Built in the 1860s, this vernacular I-house illustrates late-19th century architectural trends in southern Maryland. The surviving agricultural outbuildings on the property reflect the continued importance of agriculture to the southern Maryland economy during the late-19th century. Oden Bowie, the property owner at the time the dwelling was erected, maintained the agricultural farm as early as 1861.

The house is located at the end of a winding gravel road, far from Crain Highway. The property features fields, pastures, wooded areas, and a huge boxwood in front of the house. This vernacular I-house is two stories tall and three bays wide. Rectangular in plan, the front section of the house appears to have been built onto an older house, which is two stories tall and two bays deep. The older section now functions as the ell of the house. The dwelling rests on a parged concrete foundation, and the wood frame walls are clad with brick-patterned asphalt sheets over the original weatherboard. A one-story, three-bay wide porch extends across the façade, and an asphalt shingle, side gable roof covers the building. A recently built exterior end brick chimney laid in stretcher bond is located on the rear of the ell.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG:74B-28

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____

common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 180 Crain Highway, SE not for publication _____

city or town Upper Marlboro vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD

county Prince George's County code 33 zip code _____

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>4</u> | <u>0</u> | buildings |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | sites |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | structures |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | objects |
| <u>4</u> | <u>0</u> | Total |

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____

No ☒ _____

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
180 Crain Highway, SE
Prince George's County, Maryland

Inventory No. PG: 74B-28
Page 2

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Parged Concrete

Roof Gable: Asphalt Shingle

Walls Wood Frame: Asphalt Shingle

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
180 Crain Highway, SE
Prince George's County, Maryland

Inventory No. PG: 74B-28
Page 4

=====
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance 1860-1950

Significant Dates c. 1860

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
180 Crain Highway, SE
Prince George's County, Maryland

Inventory No. PG: 74B-28
Page 5

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property 1.00 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 180 Crain Highway, SE is designated as Parcel 56, Grid E1 as indicated on Map 77.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building at 180 Crain Highway, SE has historically been associated with Parcel 56 since its construction circa 1860.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 6, 1999
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====

12. Property Owner

=====

name Thomas A. Sears, Jr.
street & number 180 Crain Highway, SE telephone _____
city or town Upper Marlboro state MD zip code 20774

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 74B-28

Section 7 Page 1

180 Crain Highway, SE
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====

The house is located at the end of a winding gravel road, far from Crain Highway. The property features fields, pastures, wooded areas, and a huge boxwood in front of the house. Built around 1860, this vernacular I-house is two-stories high and three bays wide. Rectangular in plan, the front section of the house appears to have been built onto an older house, which is two stories tall and two bays deep. The older section now functions as the ell of the house. The dwelling rests on a parged concrete foundation, and the wood frame walls are clad with brick-patterned asphalt sheets over the original weatherboard. A one-story, three-bay wide porch extends across the façade, and an asphalt shingle, side gable roof covers the building. A recently built exterior end brick chimney laid in stretcher bond is located on the rear of the ell.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The façade, or the northeast elevation of the building, is three bays wide, and features a one-story, three-bay wide wood frame porch. The porch is set on brick piers, and has square wood posts which support a hipped, asphalt shingle roof. The first floor level is marked by a centered entry, with a single-leaf paneled wood door. A 3-light transom is located above the door, and a 2-light sidelight is on each side. On either side of the entrance is a 2/2 wood window. The second floor level is articulated by three unevenly spaced 2/2 wood windows.

The northwest elevation is comprised of the front section of the house and the older ell section. The front section features two 2/2 wood windows on the first floor and two on the second floor. The ell has two 6/6 wood windows on the first floor, and two on the second floor. The side gable on the front part of the house has cornice returns.

The rear, or southwest elevation, is dominated by the ell, which has a large, recently built exterior rear brick chimney. The gable on the ell has cornice returns. Two 2/2 wood windows are visible on the front portion of the house, to the right of where it attaches to the ell; one window is on the first floor, and the other is directly above, on the second floor.

The southeast elevation is comprised of the front portion of the house, and the older ell. The front part of the house contains

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 74B-28

Section 7 Page 2

180 Crain Highway, SE
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====

four 2/2 wood windows: two on the first floor, and two on the second floor. The ell has two 6/6 wood windows on the first floor. To the left of each window is a single-leaf wood door. The left-hand door is paneled, while the right-hand door is paneled with lights. There is also a 1-story, 3-bay wide wood frame porch on this side of the ell with square post supports and an asphalt shingle, shed roof. At the second floor level are two 6/6 wood windows. The gable on the front part of the house has cornice returns.

SUPPORTING BUILDINGS:

Located behind the house are a shed, a tractor shed, and a barn. All of these buildings have wood frame construction and standing seam metal roofs. The shed was built around 1900, and is one bay wide. It also has vertical board siding and a gable roof. The five bay wide tractor shed was also built around 1900. It is located southeast of the shed, and features board-and-batten siding, unmilled log post supports, and a shed roof with exposed rafter ends. The barn was built around 1920, and is southwest of the house. Four bays wide, it has board-and-batten siding and a shed roof.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 74B-28

Section 8 Page 1

180 Crain Highway, SE
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====

Built in the 1860s, this vernacular I-house illustrates late-19th century architectural trends in southern Maryland. The surviving agricultural outbuildings on the property reflect the continued importance of agriculture to the southern Maryland economy during the late-19th century. Oden Bowie, the property owner at the time the dwelling was erected, maintained the agricultural farm as early as 1861.

A prevalent 19th-century house type across the mid-Atlantic region, the I-house was one room deep, two stories tall, and three or five bays wide, with a central entry. I-houses usually had a porch on the front elevation and a kitchen wing in the rear, due to the narrowness of the main core. On the interior, a central passage separated the two rooms on the first floor, while the second floor contained either two or four bedchambers. The gable cornice returns on this house were a common feature on I-houses during this period.

Following the Civil War and the demise of the plantation system, farm size in Prince George's County slowly decreased. While the average farm size decreased from 263 acres in 1860 to 159 acres in 1880 and 104 acres in 1910, the number of farms in the county increased from 800 in 1860 to approximately 2,400 by 1900. Tenant farming and sharecropping were also practiced, but the availability of credit placed a greater proportion of Maryland's farmland under independent ownership than in other former slave states. While tobacco continued to serve as a major cash crop, southern Maryland farmers, especially those nearer the urban markets of Washington and Baltimore, began diversifying and produced more crops, such as grains and potatoes, for consumption in the cities. The opening of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad in 1873 revitalized the practice of agriculture in southern Maryland. Beginning in 1873, the railroad operated a freight train to Baltimore once a week to carry local produce. In the 1880s, land values in southern Maryland rose rapidly in response to increased profits from agriculture. The Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, therefore, was responsible for agricultural prosperity in southern Maryland during the 19th and 20th centuries.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 74B-28

Section 8 Page 2

180 Crain Highway, SE
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====

National Register Evaluation:

The house at 180 Crain Highway, SE is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Not Recommended X

Comments:

Review, OPS: *[Signature]* Date: 11/4/99

Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: _____

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 74B-28

180 Crain Highway, SE
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and
Community Planning
Agricultural

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

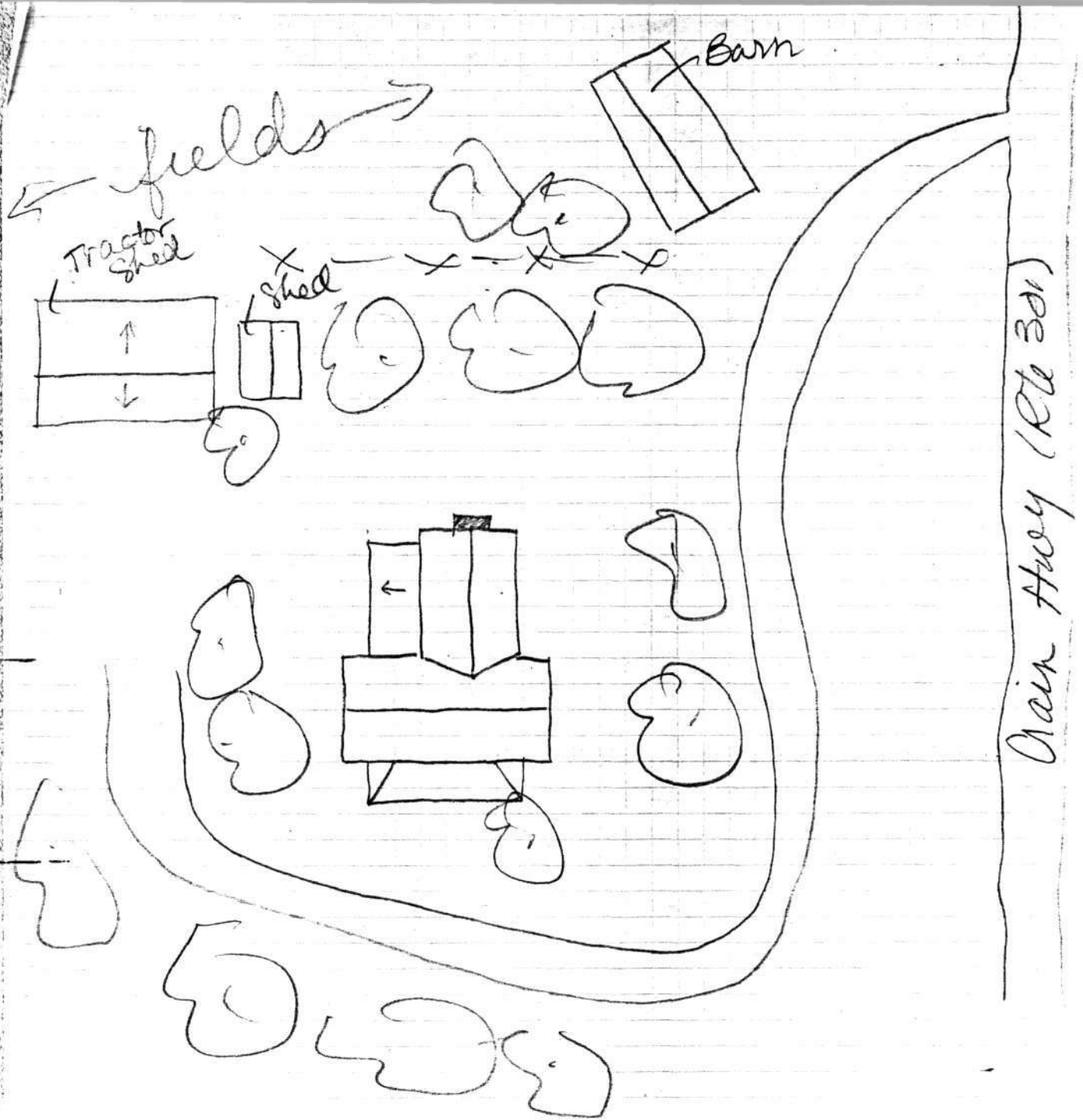
MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 74B-28

180 Crain Highway, SE
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====
Chain of Title:

- September 11, 1861: Walter Smith et ux to Oden Bowie
Land Records Prince George's County
Liber CSM 4 Folio 177
- January 4, 1896: Equity Proceedings No. 2171, Circuit Court,
Prince George's County
Commissioners of the Court to Mary Oden
Whitridge
Court Records of Prince George's County
- January 20, 1896: Thomas Whitridge to John C. Jones
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber JWB 36 Folio 103
- January 26, 1972: Millard C. Jones, John C. Jones, Harry A.
Jones, Dorothy J. Hall, Evelyn J. Sears, heirs
of Annie Jones to George T. Burroughs
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 4080 Folio 983
- June 8, 1972: George T. Burroughs to Evelyn J. Sears
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 4080 Folio 996
- July 23, 1984: Evelyn J. Sears to Thomas A. Sears, Jr.
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 5946 Folio 550

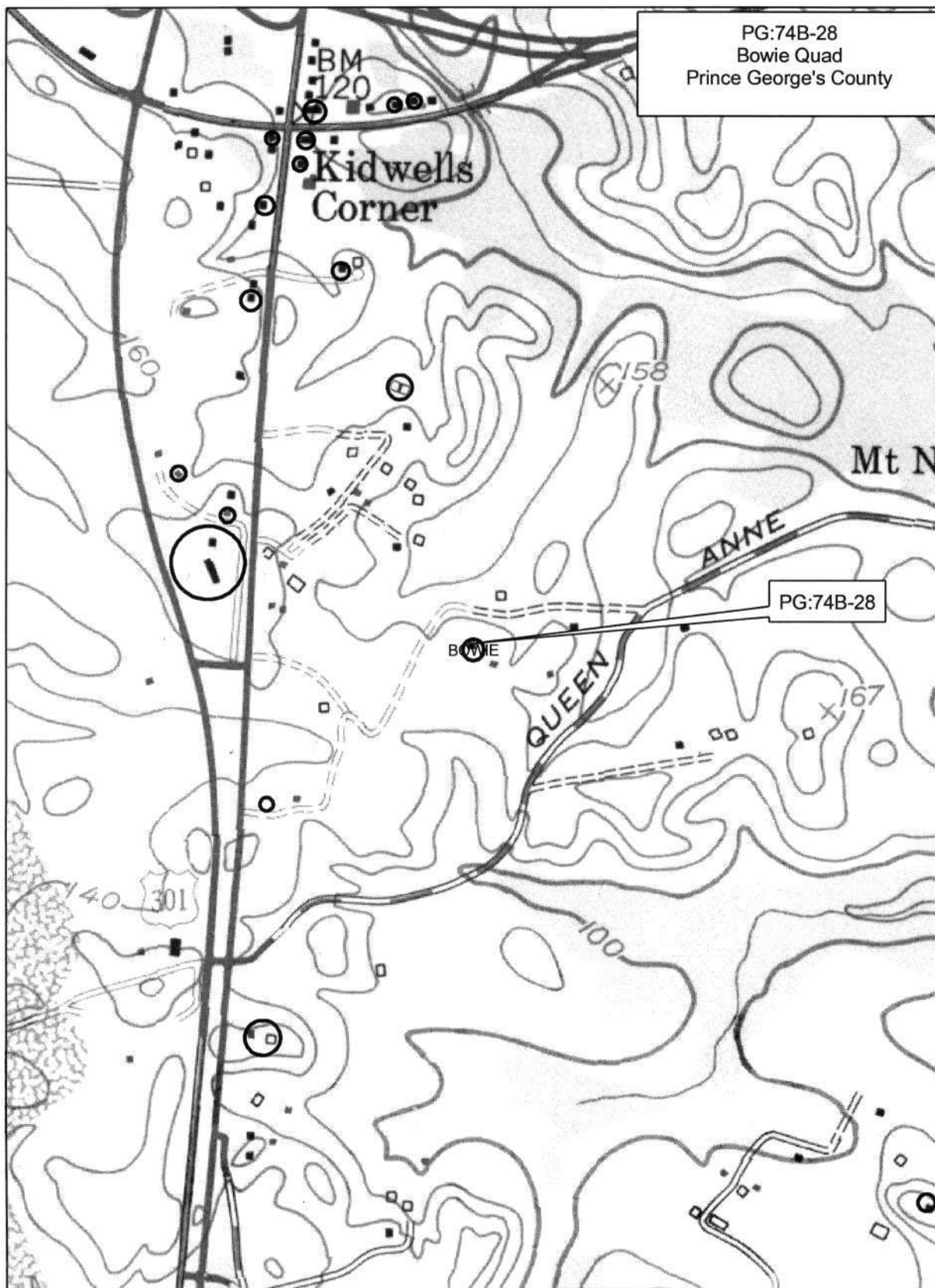


N ↓

180 Grain Highway, SE PG:74B-28

Prince George's County
Maryland

Resource Sketch map 1999
Not Drawn to Scale





PG: 74B-28

180 CRAIG HIGHWAY, SE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPD

northeast elevation

1 of 7



PG: 74B-28

180 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPD

northwest elevation

2 of 7



PG:74B-28

180 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
JUNE 1999
MD SHPO
west corner

3 of 7



PG: 74B-28

180 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRAKERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPD

South corner

4 of 7



PG:74B-28

180 Crain Highway, SE
Prince George's County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

shed

5 of 7



PG: 74B-28

180 Crain Highway, SE
Prince George's County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

tractor shed

6 of 7



PG: 748-28

180 Crain Highway, SE
Prince George's County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

barn

7 of 7